IN THE INFINITE DARKNESS THEY ARE WAITING!
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NO. 115
JAN.
MYSTERY IN SPACE
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5 ALL-NEW INTERSTELLAR SHOCKERS!
Joe Kubert
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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY WEST
JOHNNY WEST, WEARING HIS ACME BOOTS KEEPS AN EYE OUT FOR KIDS IN TROUBLE.
ONE DAY AFTER SCHOOL...
LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR JOHNNY WEST..
SCRAM KID, I'M BORROWIN' YOUR HORSE!
GEE, JOHNNY WEST! I WISH I COULD STAND UP TO TROUBLE LIKE YOU DO.
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CENTURIES AGO, A MAN NAMED *NOAH* LOADED TWO OF EVERY ANIMAL HIS WORLD HAD BIRTHED ABOARD A GIANT *ARK*. HIS OBJECT: TO REPLENISH AN *EARTH* FLOODED BY AN ANGRY *GOD*!

CENTURIES FROM NOW, *DR. NOAH THOMAS* ACCOMPANIES A *SPACE-SHIP* LOADED WITH EARTH ANIMALS, BOUND FOR AN EARTH COLONY IN OUTER SPACE!

A.R.C.

ARK

HE IS THE ONLY *HUMAN* ABOARD THE *ANIMAL RESOURCE CARRIER*-- THE A. R. C. -- BUT HE REFERS TO IT, INEVITABLY, AS SIMPLY...

MIKE W. BARR WRITER / GEORGE TUSKA & BOB WIACEK ARTISTS / SHELLY LEFERMAN LETTERER / GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST / LEN WEIN EDITOR

WITNESS *DR. NOAH THOMAS*, A MAN TRAVERSING THE *FINAL FRONTIER*, JOURNEYING TO ALIEN *GALAXIES*, WANDERING THE STARRY TRAILS OF *SPACE*!

EXCUSE ME, DR. THOMAS...

NO NEED T'STAND ON *CEREMONY*, ARK -- YOU CAN CALL ME *NOAH*! WHAT IS IT?

J-6930

WITNESS A MAN *BORED* BEYOND IMAGINING!

THE TEMPERATURE IN THE TROPICAL BIRDS' AVIARY HAS DROPPED THREE DEGREES, NOAH... REQUEST PERMISSION TO READJUST?

DON'T TIRE YOUR *COMPUTER CIRCUITS*, ARK! ; YAWN? I'LL DO IT! C'MON, EINSTEIN!

EEERK?

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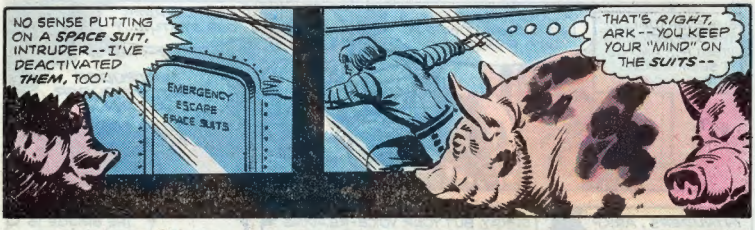
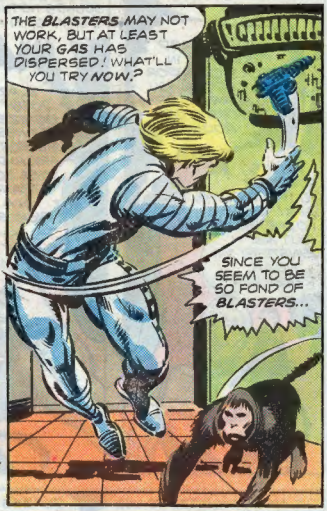
I'M PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF ADJUSTING THE TEMPERATURE, NOAH... BUT IF YOU'RE GOING IN, DON'T FORGET YOUR THROAT MIKE AND EARPHONE TO KEEP IN TOUCH!
NO OFFENSE T'YOU, ARK... I'M NOT COMPETIN' WITH YOU...
...I'M JUST BORED! I'M A VETERINARIAN, ARK--I SHOULD BE ON EARTH, TAKIN' CARE OF ANIMALS...
...NOT OUT HERE IN SPACE! IF THE JOB DIDN'T CALL FOR IT, I'D--
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, NOAH--
"--BUT WE'RE ENCOUNTERING A METEOR SHOWER! I SUGGEST YOU TAKE COVER--IMMEDIATELY!!"
A.R.C.
EVEN AS NOAH COMPLIES, SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF SPACE DEBRIS HURTLE AT THE ARK, UNKNOWING, UNCARING...
...AND OFTEN, UNSTOPPABLE! ALL POWER THAT CAN BE SPARED IS CHANNELED INTO ARK'S METEOR SCREENS, AND MOST OF THE INTRUDERS ARE DESTROYED...
...BUT NOT ALL!
AND WITHIN THE ARK, ELECTRICAL RELAYS, PUSHED BEYOND THEIR LIMITS, ABRUPTLY--
OVERLOAD! OVERLOAD!
MY THROAT--ARRGH!
SKREEE!
AND FOR TOO LONG A TIME, THE ONLY SOUND HEARD ABOARD THE ARK IS THE TERRIFIED SQUEAL OF AN ANIMAL...
...AN ANIMAL WHOSE JUNGLE INSTINCTS ARE WORSE THAN USELESS--IN THE MIDDLE OF DEEP SPACE!
2

BUT, EVENTUALLY, THE SHIP REPAIRS ITSELF... AND SO, IT SEEMS, DOES THE MAN!
OOOOH...THROAT FEELS LIKE I SWALLOWED A TON'A GRAVEL!
ARK!...WHAT'S OUR STATUS...?
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT!
INTRUDERS, ARK? WHERE?
UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL IN DECK 5, CORRIDOR E! I ADVISE YOU TO SURRENDER--BEFORE I GET ROUGH!
DECK 5, CORRIDOR... YOU'RE WRONG, ARK! THERE'S NO ONE HERE BUT ME'N EINSTEIN! I'M NOAH, REMEMBER?
SORRY, BUT YOUR VOICE-READING SOUNDS NOTHING LIKE DR. THOMAS'! I SAY AGAIN--SURRENDER!
BLAZES, IT DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME! BETWEEN THAT METEOR HITTIN' ARK AND MY VOICE SOUNDIN' STRANGE, I'M IN A PICKLE!
BEST BET IS TO RADIO HQ RIGHT--
--AWAY!?
THE BRIDGE IS OFF-LIMITS FOR YOU, MISTER! AND IF YOU DON'T SURRENDER NOW--
HHNG!
--I AM AUTHORIZED TO USE ANY MEASURES TO STOP YOU...AND PROTECT MY CARGO!
BLAZES, ALL THE HATCHES ARE SEALED, AND--GAS!?
TABLE
SSSSSSS
HEAVEN KNOWS WHAT A WHIFF'A THAT STUFF'LL DO, EINSTEIN! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
YOU CAN RUN, INTRUDER--BUT YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!
AND DESPITE ALL HIS ACTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, DR. NOAH THOMAS IS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THAT ARK MAY BE CORRECT!
3


NO SENSE PUTTING ON A SPACE SUIT, INTRUDER--I'VE DEACTIVATED THEM, TOO!
EMERGENCY ESCAPE SPACE SUITS
THAT'S RIGHT, ARK--YOU KEEP YOUR "MIND" ON THE SUITS--



...YOU'LL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT MINE ARE IN TOP OPERATING CONDITION!
OR WILL YOU?
;PANT; LOOK OUT, EINSTEIN! LOW BRIDGE!
CRRZZ
YEEP!

RUNNIN' FROM A MACHINE'S EVEN WORSE THAN WORKIN' FOR ONE! THE BLAMED THING'S ALMOST ALIVE, IT SEES EVERYTHING!
PRETTY SOON, IT'LL GO FOR THE KILL! ;GASP; BUT HOW CAN I STOP IT? ;PANT; HOW?
CRRZZ
4

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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BRAND NEW
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THE BOOK REPORTERS
IT'S A WACKY WORLD
WHATTAYA DO, DAD?/MOM?
BUS STOPS
PROFESSOR RUTABAGA
PET PEEVES
SUPERPERSON U.
TURKEY OF THE WEEK

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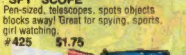

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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

THE AVIARY? ARK MUST'VE HERDED US BACK HERE FOR A REASON, BUT WHY? AND WHERE'D THAT BREEZE COME--
BREEZE? OH, NO.
AVIARY
OH, YES! INTRUDER! YOU COULD HAVE SAVE YOURSELF BY SURRENDERING, BUT NO--
--YOU HAD TO MAKE ME DO THIS THE HARD WAY...BY PUMPING ALL THE AIR OUT OF THIS SECTOR AND TURNING OFF THE HEAT!
DR. NOAH THOMAS' DYING EYES TURN HEAVENWARD, AND WHETHER THIS IS BY ACCIDENT OR INSTINCT HE DOES NOT STOP TO PONDER...
...FOR HE MAY HAVE FOUND HIS SALVATION!
...BIRDS HAVE... AIR...CAN'T GET TO IT...
HUH? BIRDS HAVE AIR! SURE...!
THEY'RE CARGO! ARK HAS'TA PROTECT THEM...
MAYBE... JUST MAYBE...
EACH RACKING GASP OF BREATH SHUDDERS THROUGH HIS BODY, AND NOAH BARELY HEARS THE VOICE SLICING THE THIN AIR...
THE CARGO COMPARTMENTS ARE AIR-TIGHT, INTRUDER... YOU CAN'T GET ANY AIR THAT WAY!
I {GASP} KNOW THAT, YOU BLASTED BUCKET OF BOLTS...
...BUT IF I CAN JURY-RIG THIS HEATER...
...SET IT TO ITS HIGHEST POSSIBLE OUTPUT...
...I MAY BE ABLE T'SAVE MY BACON... NOT JUST FRY IT...!
SLAM
5

C-CAN'T BREATHE... BUT GOTTA WAIT...
...A L-LITTLE LONGER...
...JUST A FEW SECONDS M-MORE...
DR. NOAH THOMAS IS STILL NOW, AND AS HE FEELS THE FROST FORM ON HIS BODY, AS HIS BODY, AS HIS HAIR BECOMES HEAVY WITH ICE, HE KNOWS THAT IF HE WOULD SIMPLY SUCCUMB TO THE COLD, IF HE WOULD ONLY SLEEP, HE WOULD SOON BE WARM! BUT HE DOES NOT SUCCUMB...
...FOR HE KNOWS THAT TO SLEEP IS TO CURL UP--AND DIE!
SSSS SSSS
NOW!
THE NUMBNESS IN HIS FINGERS SOON GIVES 'WAY TO SEARING PAIN, BUT STILL HE DOES NOT QUIT...
KRRAACK
...UNTIL HE HAS WON!
HOLY JUMPIN' GOD, IT WORKED! THE HOT METAL AGAINST THE COLD GLASS CRACKED THE BARRIER...
KRA WHOOM!
...AND AIR PRESSURE, PUSHIN' ON THE GLASS FROM THE INSIDE, DID THE REST!
RRAWWK
SKREEK
EMBERGENCY! EMERGENCY! CARGO ESCAPING!
6

EQUALIZE PRESSURE! ALL INTERIOR HATCHES OPEN! RESTORE OXYGEN!
THE COMPUTER'S FIRST DUTY IS TO ITS CARGO, SO ARK'S FORCED TO OPEN THE HATCHES...
WHOOOM
...WHICH IS JUST WHAT I WAS COUNTIN' ON!
COMPUTER OVERRIDE
DID IT! NOW I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS SHOOTIN' MATCH--THE WAY IT OUGHTTA BE!
WHANG
BUT WHAT ABOUT...
EINSTEIN! YOU MADE IT, BUDDY!
CHEE? CHEE?
SOME HOURS LATER, ON THE BRIDGE OF ANOTHER VESSEL...
I SEE IT! BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND OUT WHY ITS COMPUTER STOPPED TRANSMITTING! MANEUVER CLOSER!
THERE IT IS, SIR! THERE'S THE A.R.C.!
THERE YOU ARE, SIR, BUT...?
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT!
SORRY T'BE ARRIVIN' LATE, CAPTAIN, BUT I'VE HAD T'BE BOTH CAPTAIN AND VET SINCE OUR COMPUTER BROKE DOWN!
SAY... ANY OF YOU BOYS CARE FOR SOME FRESH, WHOLE, MILK?
7
END

WONDERS of SPACE

c/o DC COMICS, INC. 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

L-682

Dear Len,

I thought *TIME WARP* was the best science fiction-mystery mag, but then, "SHAZAM"—*MYSTERY IN SPACE* was revived!

MYSTERY IN SPACE #111 was a great issue. Please have more stories in compliance with Armageddon.

Now on with the criticism..."Final Warning" was some chiller-thriller. It was the best story in the book.

"Viewpoints" was average. It didn't shock me or anything.

Now "The Singling" was a story! Who would've thought that one of the aliens was an Earthling?

"Once Upon a Time Machine" was delightful. Wouldn't it be fun if all of the fairy tales really happened that way instead of the way we know them?

I almost forgot to mention "Sure Things" It was pretty funny.

Joe Kubert's cover wasn't bad In fact, that's why I picked up *MYSTERY IN SPACE*.

Keep up the good work

Graham Wong
35-4633 St.
Long Island City, NY 11106

Now that's the kind of "criticisms" we like to hear—almost all raves! We are going for some more of the "upbeat" type of tales rather than those of "Armageddon," and we hope you'll stick with us.—MCM

* * * * *

Dear Sirs,

Here I sit at the Oliver Books store in Westlake,California's County Line Shopping Center reading comic books. Thank goodness you are bringing this fantastic mag back to comicdom! *MYSTERY IN SPACE* #111 was fantastic!!! Art and storylines were great!

I would suggest that you keep writing 'one shot' stories and keep colorful covers coming. I'm sick and tired of all the 'serial' type comic magazines. 'One shots' would be a welcome change Also, have a lot of stories concerning ancient or modern alien civilizations—but most of all-make the covers colorful, bright and eye-catching! That's what caught MY eye! COVERS are what sell books and magazines, I'm afraid.

If you keep writing and drawing stories like those in #111, you'll get a large following!

Steve Yovack
Oliver Books
County Line Shopping Center
4607 Lakeview Rd.
Westlake Village, CA 91361

We are well aware of the importance of covers, Steve—that's why we assigned so many to the celebrated Mr. K himself, Joe Kubert!—MCM

* * * * *

Dear Purveyors of Wonders of Space,

After learning that Roy Thomas will be joining your ranks, and jointly seeing my old favorite: *MYSTERY IN SPACE* (#111) I decided to pick up a copy

The stories all had good twists to them and the art was superior. I especially appreciated the concept of "The Singling". That is, telling a story unencumbered by word balloons et. al., and telling it quite effectively

I'd like to see about half the magazine involved with 'one shots', and half carrying a continuing space saga. I'd like to qualify the nature of this saga to hopefully be something on the order of "Dune Trilogy" by Frank Herbert or the "Foundation Triology" by Asimov. I would be more appreciative of this sort of space fantasy than "Space Cabby" or "The Atomic Knights." Perhaps giving Roy Thomas the opportunity to create a space scenario would be effective.

Steve Bremner
448 14th Ave.
Seattle, Washington 98122

Specific plans about the 'format' of MIS are still in the talking and planning stages, but we do want to point out that one old series is being revived right along with this title—but it was a feature that never appeared in MYSTERY IN SPACE. The feature is SPACE MUSEUM and it will be written by Gerry Conway. The art will be by the very same artist who made the feature from STRANGE ADVENTURES so famous in the Fifties and Sixties—Carmine Infantino!—MCM

* * * * *

Dear DC,

Congratulations on your first new issue of *MYSTERY IN SPACE*. The no-dialogue format of "The Singling" was most effective and Jim Aparo's art was excellent. Also worthy of mention are the fine jobs by Gerald Brown and Dan Spiegle on "Final Warning" and the humor of "Sure Things"

In the future I would like to see some serious stories of what could actually happen in space in the future as well as one story each month involving series characters Once in a while a short story like "Sure Things" would be good to add a bit of humor

Steven Write
1415 Walker Road
Freeland, Maryland 21503

Humor in MIS? Well, it always worked with the INTERPLANETARY INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR and SPACE CABBY, so who knows...—Michael C. Carmichael

LEN'S LINE-UP

ON SALE OCTOBER 9th

THE FLASH #293—*Flash* and *Firestorm* join forces in "The Deadliest Man Alive" by Gerry Conway, George Perez and Bob Smith. Plus: A *Flash* solo tale by Conway and Don Heck, "The Pied Piper's Paradox Peril!"

JUSTICE LEAGUE #186—"Who Can Stop the Shaggy Man?" Gerry Conway, George Perez and Frank McLaughlin provide the answers

WEIRD WAR TALES #95—George Kashdan and Fred Carrillo invite you to "Come Play War With Me"; Dan Mishkin, Gary Cohn and Nestor Infante show "The Way of the Horse"; Robert Kanigher and Steve Ditko unmask "The 600 Heads of Death", and J.M. DeMatteis and Dan Spiegle reveal "The Mutation of Private Voight"

WONDER WOMAN #275—Can *Wonder Woman* withstand "The Claws of the Cheetah?" Gerry Conway, Jose Delbo and Dave Hunt will show you. Plus *The Huntress* in action with *Power Girl* by Paul Levitz, Joe Staton and Steve Mitchell.

TEEN TITANS #3—*Doctor Light* is back with a new team of villains in "Beware the Fearful Five" by Marv Wolfman, George Perez and Romeo Tanghal

ON SALE OCTOBER 23rd

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #287—J.M. DeMatteis and Dan Spiegle open the door on "The Piper at the Gates of Hell"; Mike W. Barr and Jess Jodloman declare "Open Season"; Wyatt Gwyon and Frank Redondo find "Blood on the Sand"; and Robert Kanigher and E.R. Cruz are on hand "When the Sea Gives Up Its Dead".

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #247—It's off to Russia for "A Season in Hell" with the Faceless Warrior and Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and Gerry Talaoc Plus "Jinx of the Duck" by Cary Burkett, Ayers and John Celardo, and "Warrior Son" by Robert Kanigher and Tom Yeates

ADVERTISEMENT

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A MYSTERIOUS RED TAPE GRINDS THE CITY TO A HALT.
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MY "RED-TAPE" RAY GUN WILL SLOW THINGS DOWN SO MUCH THEY'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME. AND I'LL TAKE OVER THE CITY!!!
NOW THE CITY IS RUNNING AT MY SPEED. THE ONLY ONE STANDING IN MY WAY IS THE FLASH.
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP BUREAUC-RAT IS TO THROW OFF HIS TIMING.
HERE, BUREAUC-RAT
YOU CAN'T CATCH ME...
...SO CATCH THESE!
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The PLANET OF LOATHING

STEVEN UTLEY
WRITER
STEVE DITKO
ARTIST
Gaspar
LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY
COLORIST

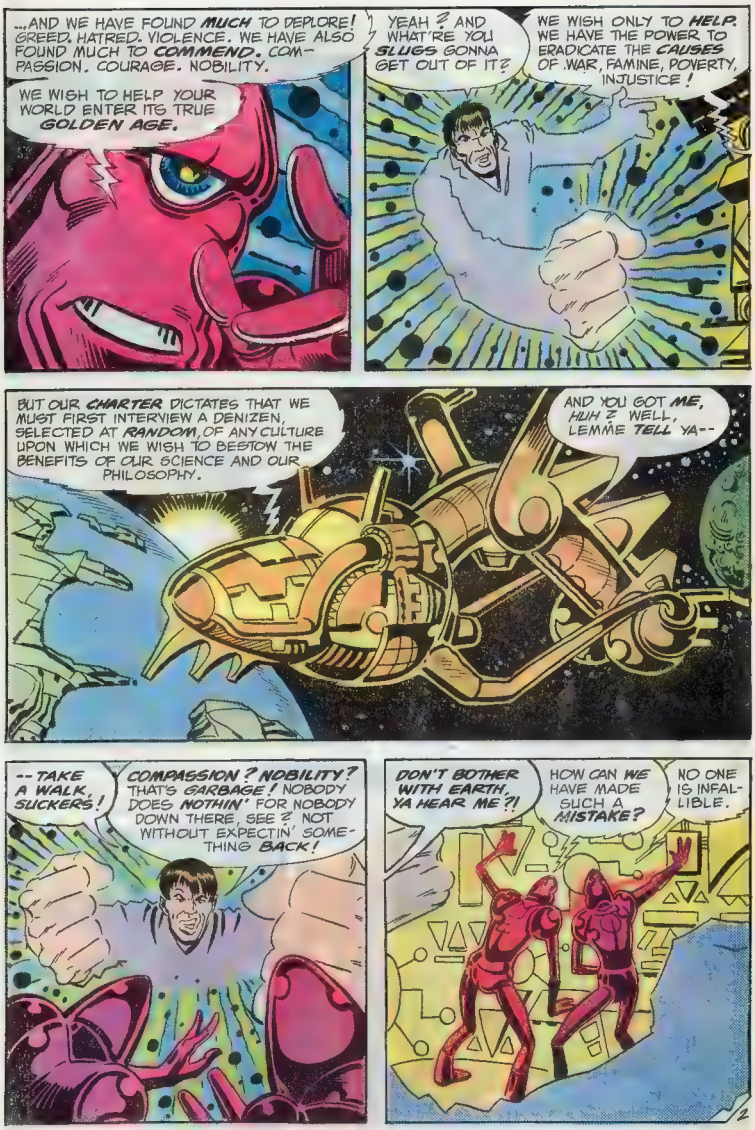
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? WHERE AM I?

WHO--OR WHAT--ARE YOU?

WE MUST APOLOGIZE FOR OUR METHOD OF TRANSPORTING YOU HERE. YOU WILL NOT BE HARMED. YOU ARE IN ORBIT ABOUT YOUR WORLD.

WE WISH ONLY TO SPEAK WITH YOU. WE HAVE BEEN OBSERVING YOUR PLANET FOR SOME TIME NOW...

S. 6663


...AND WE HAVE FOUND MUCH TO DEPLORE! GREED. HATRED. VIOLENCE. WE HAVE ALSO FOUND MUCH TO COMMEND. COMPASSION. COURAGE. NOBILITY.
WE WISH TO HELP YOUR WORLD ENTER ITS TRUE GOLDEN AGE.
YEAH? AND WHAT'RE YOU SLUGS GONNA GET OUT OF IT?
WE WISH ONLY TO HELP. WE HAVE THE POWER TO ERADICATE THE CAUSES OF WAR, FAMINE, POVERTY, INJUSTICE!
BUT OUR CHARTER DICTATES THAT WE MUST FIRST INTERVIEW A DENIZEN, SELECTED AT RANDOM, OF ANY CULTURE UPON WHICH WE WISH TO BESTOW THE BENEFITS OF OUR SCIENCE AND OUR PHILOSOPHY.
AND YOU GOT ME, HUH? WELL, LEMME TELL YA--
-- TAKE A WALK, SUCKERS!
COMPASSION? NOBILITY? THAT'S GARBAGE! NOBODY DOES NOTHIN' FOR NOBODY DOWN THERE, SEE? NOT WITHOUT EXPECTIN' SOMETHING BACK!
DON'T BOTHER WITH EARTH, YA HEAR ME?!
HOW CAN WE HAVE MADE SUCH A MISTAKE?
NO ONE IS INFALLIBLE.
2

BUT IT IS OUT OF OUR HANDS NOW. THE CHARTER REQUIRES US TO ABIDE BY THIS ONE BEING'S ANSWER. WE MUST RETURN IT TO ITS PEOPLE--
"--AND LET THEM FIND SALVATION FOR THEMSELVES."
IT'S TIME, FERRIS.
ARE YOU SURE YOU WON'T CHANGE YOUR MIND AND TALK, MY SON?
BUZZ OFF! HOW MANY TIMES I GOTTA TELL YA--
DON'T DO ME NO FAVORS!
NOW LET'S GET IT OVER WITH, BEFORE YOU BORE ME TO DEATH!
YOU JUST THINK YOU'RE A HARD MAN, FERRIS!
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT, CREEP... AND YOU NEVER WILL!
The End

THAT WHICH CONQUERS ALL!

WRITER: JOHN ELLIS SECH
ARTIST: GREG LAROCQUE
INKER: JOHN CELARDO
LETTERER: SHELLY LEFERMAN
COLORIST: JERRY SERPE

THE TRANQUILITY OF THE COSMOS HAS BEEN BREACHED BY THE SUDDEN AND VIOLENT SEIZURE OF THE PLEASURE-CRUISER *SNOWBIRD* BY A SCOUTING PARTY FROM AN INVADING ALIEN HORDE...

IN THE MASTERS QUARTERS ON BOARD THE *SNOWBIRD*...

OH *GOD*, DOUG... LISTEN TO THE MEN *SCREAMING*! WHAT CAN THOSE MONSTERS BE *DOING* TO THEM?!

A-IIEE!!!

THEY'RE USING A *MIND SCANNING DEVICE* ON THE CREW, ANNE!

I HEARD TWO OF THE ALIENS *TALKING* ABOUT IT...

THE MACHINE REACHES INTO THE SUBJECT'S *BRAIN* AND PULLS OUT *EVERYTHING WITHIN*. KNOWLEDGE, BELIEFS, FEARS, AMBITIONS, BUT IT LEAVES THE SUBJECT *NOTHING* BUT A VEGETABLE--IF HE'S UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO *SURVIVE*!

SOB! AND--AND WE'RE *NEXT*.

YOU TWO. ON YOUR *FEET*...!

COME *ALONG*! THE *COMMANDER* WANTS TO HAVE A FEW *WORDS* WITH YOU...

KEEP YOUR *WITS* ABOUT YOU, ANNE ...WE'RE GETTING *OUT* OF HERE...

CONFIDENT THAT HIS HOSTAGES ARE TOO FRIGHTENED TO RESIST, THE ALIEN LOWERS HIS GUARD, AND...
WHACK!
OPEN THE HATCH TO THE ESCAPE POD, ANNE!
WITH JUST HALF A STITCH OF LUCK, WE'LL BE LONG GONE BEFORE THEY'VE DISCOVERED OUR ESCAPE...
...AND ONCE WE GET INTO THE ASTEROID BELT, THEY WON'T HAVE A SNOWMAN'S CHANCE ON MERCURY OF FINDING US!
HOLD ON TIGHT, BABE...
...'CAUSE HERE WE GO!
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO MAKE IT!...WE'LL REACH THE BELT IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!
OH, GOD! THEY KNOW THAT WE'VE ESCAPED...!
...AND THEY'VE LAUNCHED INTERCEPTOR MISSILES TO DESTROY US...!
MAKE SURE YOU'RE BUCKLED IN TIGHT, HONEY! I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN OUTFLY THOSE THINGS, BUT I'M SURE GONNA TRY!!
2

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

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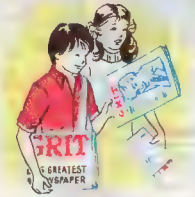

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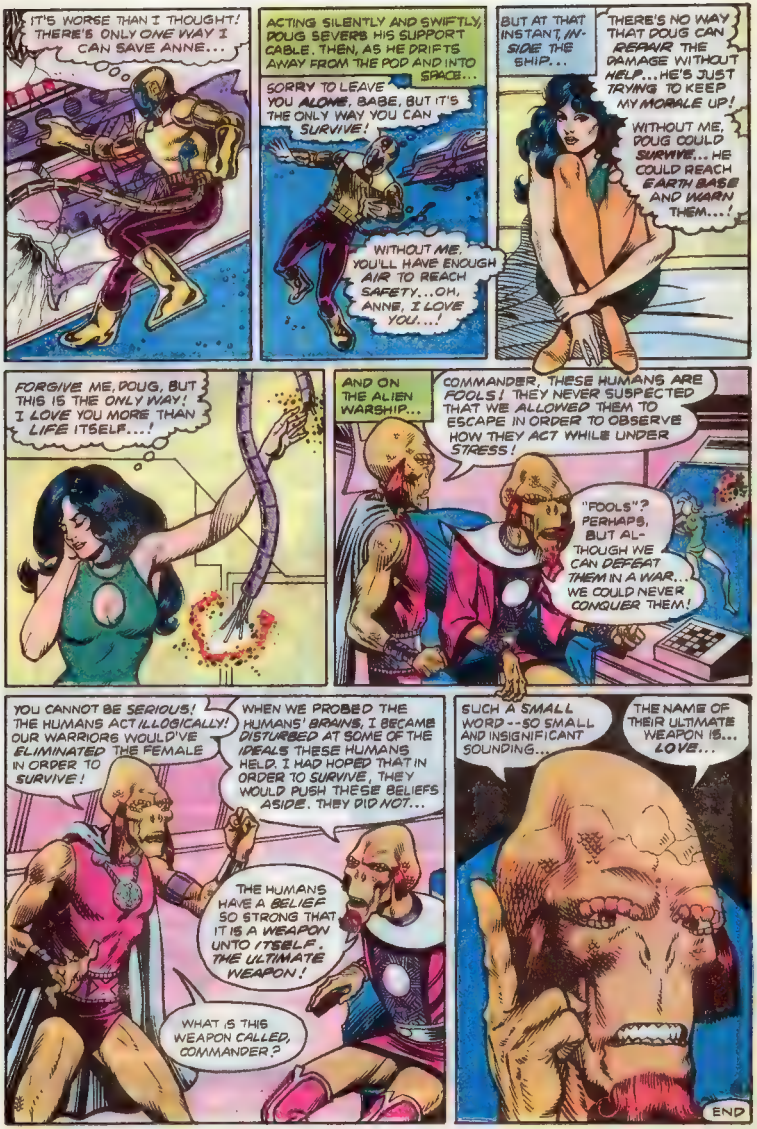
THE EXPLOSIONS ARE SILENT IN THE GHOSTLY VACUUM OF SPACE, BUT THIS MAKES THEM NO LESS AWESOME OR DANGEROUS...
THEN SUDDENLY...
NO! WE'VE BEEN HIT BY SHRAPNEL...!
I'M LOSING CONTROL!
IF I CAN'T STOP THIS POD FROM SMASHING INTO ONE OF THOSE ROCKS, WE WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GET ELECTROCUTED IN HERE...!
NOT HAVING ENOUGH TIME TO THINK, DOUG WEISS ACTS FROM PURE INSTINCT, AND...
YOU CAN BREATHE NOW, ANNE, I'VE GOT HER UNDER CONTROL... BUT WATCH OUT! THOSE EXPOSED CABLES CARRY 50,000 VOLTS EACH!
WHAT HAPPENED?
OUR PORT ENGINE GOT KNOCKED OUT BY A PIECE OF BLASTED ASTEROID. A POWER FEED WIPED OUT HALF OUR INSTRUMENTS--
--INCLUDING OUR SUB-SPACE RADIO.
THAT MEANS THAT WE CAN'T WARN EARTH ABOUT THE INVADERS!
NOT A CHANCE! WITHOUT OUR ENGINES, IT'LL TAKE US AT LEAST FOUR DAYS TO REACH THE NEAREST EARTH BASE, AND...
AND--?
...AND WE'VE ONLY ENOUGH AIR TO SUPPORT TWO PEOPLE FOR THREE DAYS!
I'VE GOT TO FIX THAT ENGINE OR WE'RE BOTH DEAD!
3


IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY I CAN SAVE ANNE...
ACTING SILENTLY AND SWIFTLY, DOUG SEVERS HIS SUPPORT CABLE. THEN, AS HE DRIFTS AWAY FROM THE POD AND INTO SPACE...
SORRY TO LEAVE YOU ALONE, BABE, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN SURVIVE!
WITHOUT ME, YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH AIR TO REACH SAFETY...OH, ANNE, I LOVE YOU...!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT, INSIDE THE SHIP...
THERE'S NO WAY THAT DOUG CAN REPAIR THE DAMAGE WITHOUT HELP...HE'S JUST TRYING TO KEEP MY MORALE UP!
WITHOUT ME, DOUG COULD SURVIVE... HE COULD REACH EARTH BASE AND WARN THEM...!
FORGIVE ME, DOUG, BUT THIS IS THE ONLY WAY! I LOVE YOU MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF...!
AND ON THE ALIEN WARSHIP...
COMMANDER, THESE HUMANS ARE FOOLS! THEY NEVER SUSPECTED THAT WE ALLOWED THEM TO ESCAPE IN ORDER TO OBSERVE HOW THEY ACT WHILE UNDER STRESS!
"FOOLS"? PERHAPS, BUT ALTHOUGH WE CAN DEFEAT THEM IN A WAR... WE COULD NEVER CONQUER THEM!
YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! THE HUMANS ACT ILLOGICALLY! OUR WARRIORS WOULD'VE ELIMINATED THE FEMALE IN ORDER TO SURVIVE!
WHEN WE PROBED THE HUMANS' BRAINS, I BECAME DISTURBED AT SOME OF THE IDEALS THESE HUMANS HELD. I HAD HOPED THAT IN ORDER TO SURVIVE, THEY WOULD PUSH THESE BELIEFS ASIDE. THEY DID NOT...
THE HUMANS HAVE A BELIEF SO STRONG THAT IT IS A WEAPON UNTO ITSELF. THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!
WHAT IS THIS WEAPON CALLED, COMMANDER?
SUCH A SMALL WORD--SO SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT SOUNDING...
THE NAME OF THEIR ULTIMATE WEAPON IS... LOVE...
END

IN A FUTURE NOT SO DISTANT THAT NEWS FROM OTHER STARS IS CASUALLY RECEIVED...
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY!
BULLETIN! THE PLANET RXAXX IS TO HOST A CONVENTION OF ALL INHABITED PLANETS IN THIS SPACE SECTOR!
THEY HAVE INVITED ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH WORLD'S DOMINANT SPECIES!
DOZENS OF PROMINENT FIGURES WILL APPEAR NEXT WEEK WHEN THE WORLD GOVERNING COUNCIL SCREENS POSSIBLE APPLICANTS...
...FOR THIS... PERHAPS THE GREATEST HONOR EVER AWARDED A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL..
ON THE APPOINTED DATE, THE WORLD COUNCIL HALL TEEMS WITH WOULD-BE AMBASSADORS... EACH DESPERATELY HOPING FOR THE CHANCE OF A BILLION LIFETIMES...
I REPRESENT THE WORLD'S RICHEST SOLAR ENERGY BARON! HE'LL PAY ONE MILLION MEGADOLLARS FOR THE HONOR!
BLASPHEMERS! SATANIC FILTH! NONE BUT GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES ON EARTH SHOULD BE EARTH'S REPRESENTATIVE ON RXAXX!
COME ON POPSY! WHO'LL GET A BIGGER RISE OUT OF THOSE CONVENTIONEERS...
...YOU... OR MISS OMNIVERSE?
MISS OMNIVERSE
ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE, PROFESSOR AAMSI SPEAKS FIRST!
YOU KNOW ME AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST PHYSICIST!
J-6665

SCRIPT: DAVID ALLIKAS / DENYS COWAN & JOHN CELARDO / LETTERS: Gasper / COLORS: JERRY SERPE

SCIENCE ENABLED MAN TO REACH THE STARS! SO IT IS FITTING THAT I--
SCIENCE-- BAH!
CAN SCIENCE COUGH! CURE THIS VIRUS WHICH AFFLICTS ME?
NO! AFTER CENTURIES OF RESEARCH, YOU STILL CAN ONLY TREAT ITS SYMPTOMS!
WE POETS sniff PRECEDED YOU TO THE STARS! AND AS THE MOST BRILLIANT...
SORRY, MR. EINNO... YOU WON'T DO!
WE CANNOT SPREAD SICKNESS THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!
HAR, HAR... THAT BAG OF BONES WOULD MAKE SOME IMPRESSION, SICK OR NOT!
GIVE THOSE ALIEN GOONS A LOOK AT ME... THE WORLD WEIGHT-LIFTING CHAMP!
SUDDENLY, ALL VOICES HUSH... AS THERE ENTERS A FIGURE WITH NO NEED TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF!
I TRUST YOU WILL ALL STOP WASTING THE COUNCIL'S TIME... NOW THAT I AM HERE!
IT'S AMBASSADOR DENIVON!
I'D HOPED HE WOULDN'T ATTEND!
SO DID WE ALL!
IF YOU SEEK AN INTERPLANETARY DIPLOMAT, COUNCIL MEMBERS...
WHY NOT THE MOST DECORATED IN EARTH'S HISTORY?
YOU NEEDN'T SELL YOURSELF TO US, MR. DENIVON! IF YOU DESIRE THE APPOINTMENT... IT'S YOURS!
NATURALLY!
MY PILOT IS READYING MY SHIP!

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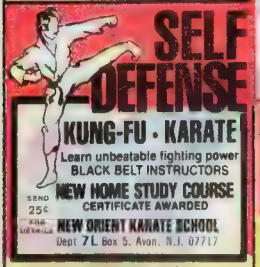

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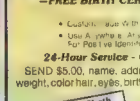

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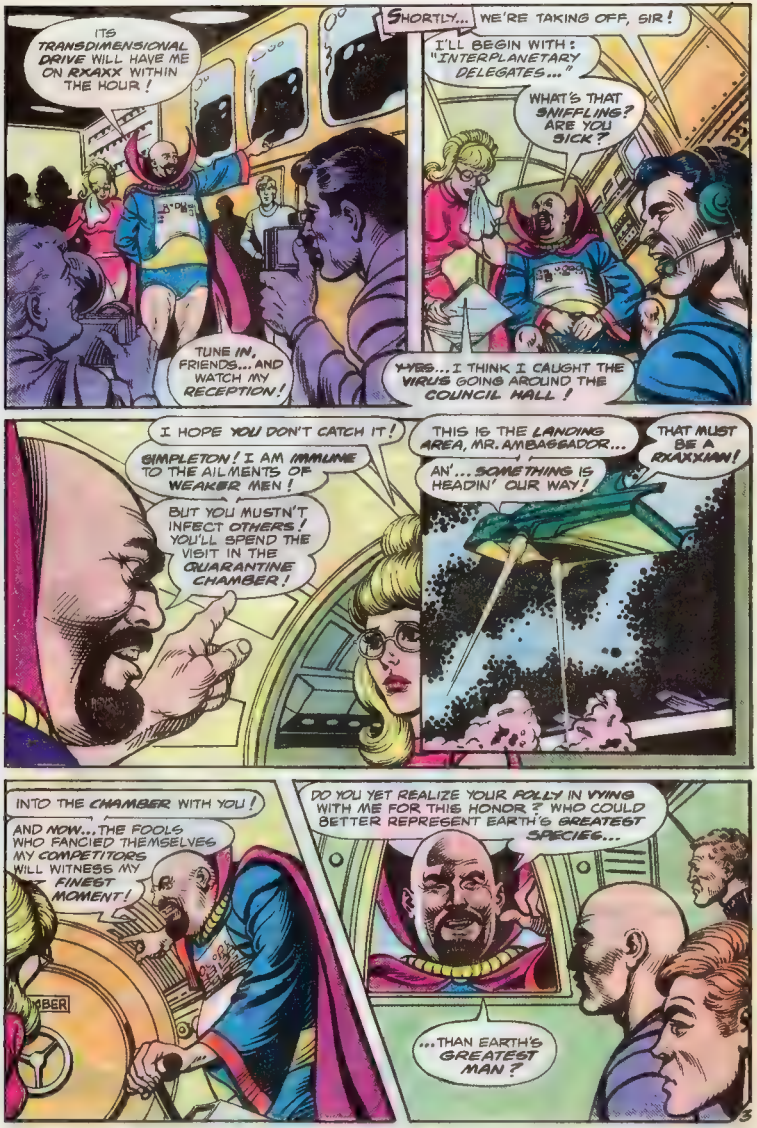
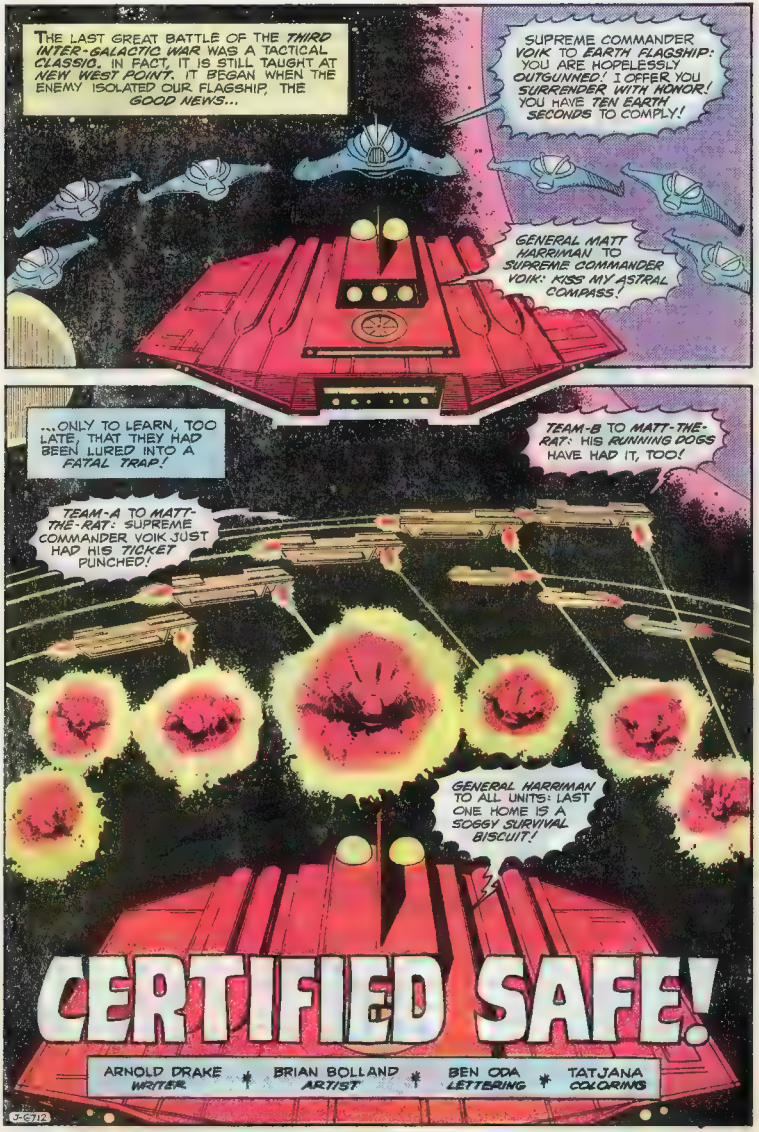

ITS TRANSDIMENSIONAL DRIVE WILL HAVE ME ON RXAXX WITHIN THE HOUR!
TUNE IN, FRIENDS... AND WATCH MY RECEPTION!
SHORTLY... WE'RE TAKING OFF, SIR!
I'LL BEGIN WITH: "INTERPLANETARY DELEGATES..."
WHAT'S THAT SNIFFLING? ARE YOU SICK?
Y-YES... I THINK I CAUGHT THE VIRUS GOING AROUND THE COUNCIL HALL!
I HOPE YOU DON'T CATCH IT!
SIMPLETON! I AM IMMUNE TO THE AILMENTS OF WEAKER MEN!
BUT YOU MUSTN'T INFECT OTHERS! YOU'LL SPEND THE VISIT IN THE QUARANTINE CHAMBER!
THIS IS THE LANDING AREA, MR. AMBASSADOR...
AN'... SOMETHING IS HEADIN' OUR WAY!
THAT MUST BE A RXAXXIAN!
INTO THE CHAMBER WITH YOU!
AND NOW... THE FOOLS WHO FANCIED THEMSELVES MY COMPETITORS WILL WITNESS MY FINEST MOMENT!
DO YOU YET REALIZE YOUR FOLLY IN VYING WITH ME FOR THIS HONOR? WHO COULD BETTER REPRESENT EARTH'S GREATEST SPECIES...
...THAN EARTH'S GREATEST MAN?

IT'S-- UGH!-- HERE!
THANK YOU FOR WELCOMING ME! I AM THE DELEGATE CHOSEN BY EARTH'S DOMINANT SPECIES!
I AM PLEASED AND PROUD TO-- WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
WHAT-- WHO DARES?
I AM THE EARTH'S REPRESENTATIVE!
NOT HER! SHE'S THE WRONG ONE!
STAY IN THE SHIP, FOOL... AND STOP SHAMING OUR PLANET!
IS THAT PRIMITIVE LIFE FORM ADDRESSING ME?
YOU ARE BUT A COURIER!
YOUR RACE IS TOO EGOTISTICAL TO REALIZE THE OBVIOUS... THAT WE ARE THE RULING SPECIES OF EARTH!
WE WHO FEED ON YOUR BODIES... WE WHO YOUR MOST ADVANCED SCIENCE...
HE IS... BUT NEVER MIND!
I WILL DEAL WITH HIM!
...CANNOT DESTROY!!
WE... THE BEINGS YOU KNOW AS VIRUSES!
THE End


THE LAST GREAT BATTLE OF THE THIRD INTER-GALACTIC WAR WAS A TACTICAL CLASSIC. IN FACT, IT IS STILL TAUGHT AT NEW WEST POINT. IT BEGAN WHEN THE ENEMY ISOLATED OUR FLAGSHIP, THE GOOD NEWS...
SUPREME COMMANDER VOIK TO EARTH FLAGSHIP: YOU ARE HOPELESSLY OUTGUNNED! I OFFER YOU SURRENDER WITH HONOR! YOU HAVE TEN EARTH SECONDS TO COMPLY!
GENERAL MATT HARRIMAN TO SUPREME COMMANDER VOIK: KISS MY ASTRAL COMPASS!
...ONLY TO LEARN, TOO LATE, THAT THEY HAD BEEN LURED INTO A FATAL TRAP!
TEAM-B TO MATT-THE-RAT: HIS RUNNING DOGS HAVE HAD IT, TOO!
TEAM-A TO MATT-THE-RAT: SUPREME COMMANDER VOIK JUST HAD HIS TICKET PUNCHED!
GENERAL HARRIMAN TO ALL UNITS: LAST ONE HOME IS A SOGGY SURVIVAL BISCUIT!
CERTIFIED SAFE!
ARNOLD DRAKE WRITER
BRIAN BOLLAND ARTIST
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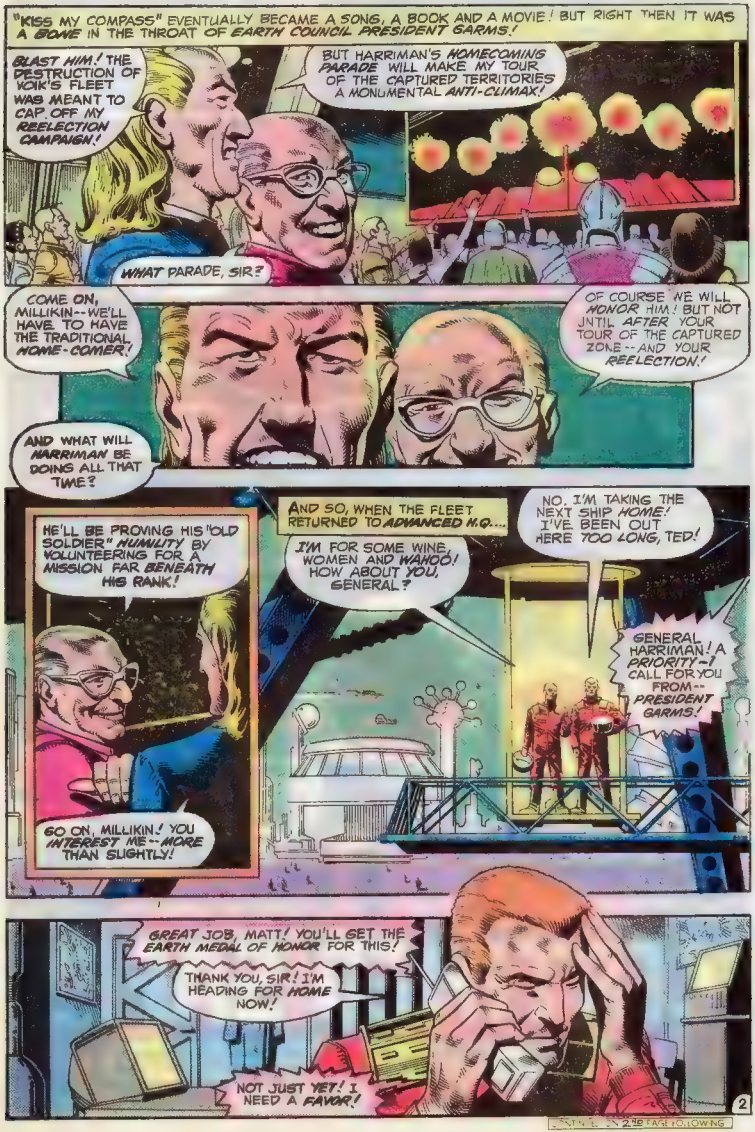
"KISS MY COMPASS" EVENTUALLY BECAME A SONG, A BOOK AND A MOVIE! BUT RIGHT THEN IT WAS A BONE IN THE THROAT OF EARTH COUNCIL PRESIDENT GARMS!
BLAST HIM! THE DESTRUCTION OF VOIK'S FLEET WAS MEANT TO CAP OFF MY REELECTION CAMPAIGN!
BUT HARRIMAN'S HOMECOMING PARADE WILL MAKE MY TOUR OF THE CAPTURED TERRITORIES A MONUMENTAL ANTI-CLIMAX!
WHAT PARADE, SIR?
COME ON, MILLIKIN--WE'LL HAVE TO HAVE THE TRADITIONAL HOME-COMER!
OF COURSE WE WILL HONOR HIM! BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER YOUR TOUR OF THE CAPTURED ZONE--AND YOUR REELECTION!
AND WHAT WILL HARRIMAN BE DOING ALL THAT TIME?
HE'LL BE PROVING HIS "OLD SOLDIER" HUMILITY BY VOLUNTEERING FOR A MISSION FAR BENEATH HIS RANK!
GO ON, MILLIKIN! YOU INTEREST ME--MORE THAN SLIGHTLY!
AND SO, WHEN THE FLEET RETURNED TO ADVANCED H.Q....
I'M FOR SOME WINE, WOMEN AND WAHOO! HOW ABOUT YOU, GENERAL?
NO. I'M TAKING THE NEXT SHIP HOME! I'VE BEEN OUT HERE TOO LONG, TED!
GENERAL HARRIMAN! A PRIORITY-1 CALL FOR YOU FROM--PRESIDENT GARMS!
GREAT JOB, MATT! YOU'LL GET THE EARTH MEDAL OF HONOR FOR THIS!
THANK YOU, SIR! I'M HEADING FOR HOME NOW!
NOT JUST YET! I NEED A FAVOR!
2
PAGE FOLLOWING

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I can hardly wait to get my pet Sea-Monkeys! Please send ____ Kit(s) **PLUS** the **FREE** supplies and **MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**. I enclose $1.25 plus 75¢ for postage and handling for each kit. I must be 100% delighted or upon return you will **immediately** refund my purchase price **IN FULL!**

Send ____ Kit(s). I enclose ___ Cash, ___ Check, ___ Money Order. Total amount enclosed $ ____
(No C.O.D. orders please)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

___ **RUSH THIS ORDER** (add 90¢ for RUSH service) ***Foreign Orders (except Canada)—$4.00 each, U.S. Currency***

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE

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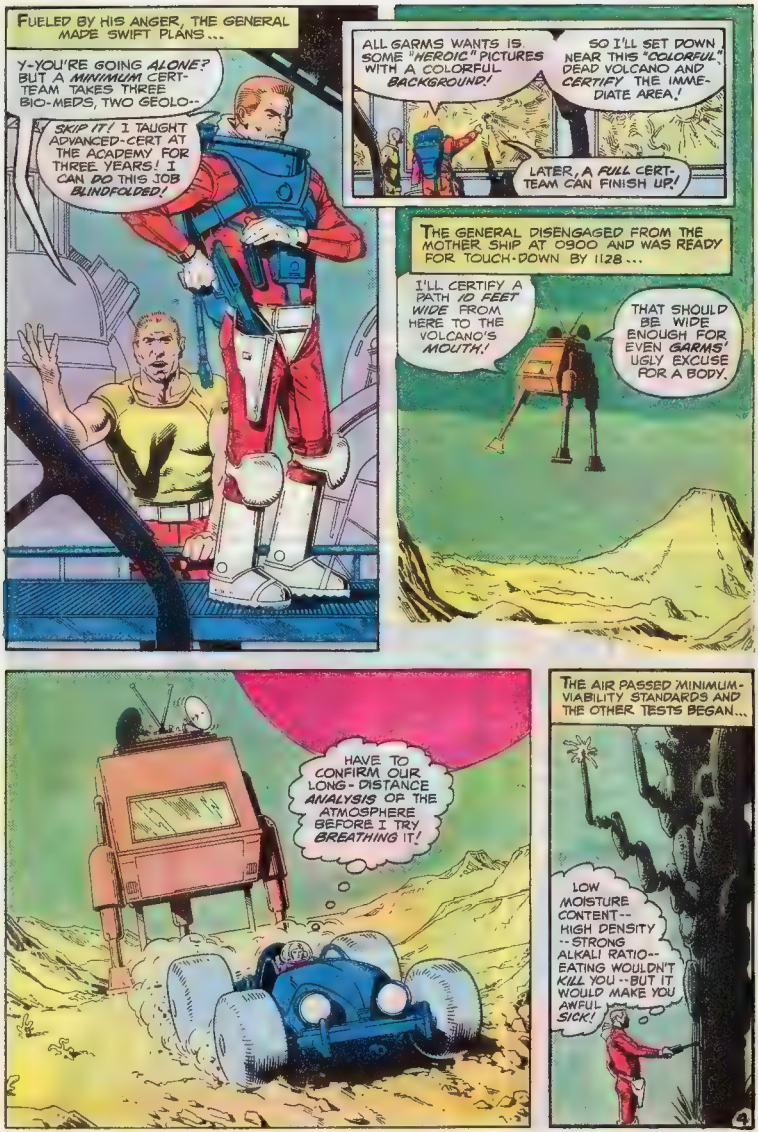
TO SYMBOLIZE OUR RULE OF THE NEW AREAS, I'M GOING TO TOUR ONE PLANET-- THE NEAREST ONE!
THAT WOULD BE DELTA-3! SMALL, UNINHABITED, ATMOSPHERE THIN BUT BREATHEABLE!
FINE! AND AS A FAVOR, I WANT YOU TO CERTIFY IT AS SAFE!
WHAT?! CERTIFYING PLANETS IS A SCRUB JOB-- FOR NEW ACADEMY GRADUATES!
YES! BUT THIS IS MY NECK WE'RE TALKING ABOUT! I CAN'T EXACTLY TRUST IT TO SOME KIDS!
NOW, OF COURSE I CAN'T REALLY FORCE OUR BEST FIELD COMMANDER TO--
-UNDERTAKE SUCH A LOWLY ASSIGNMENT!
THAT PUFF-HEADED POLITICIAN! HE JUST WANTS TO KEEP ME OUT OF THE WAY TILL HE'S GRABBED HIS GLORY --AND THE ELECTION!
SO THIS IS ONLY A-- SPECIAL REQUEST!
IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE, SIR! YOU ARE, AFTER ALL, MY COMMANDING OFFICER!
CRAACK
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULDN'T TAKE IT THAT WAY, MATT! NOW--GET GOING!
WHAT KIND OF GARBAGE IS THAT, GENERAL?
MATT TO CERTIFY CAPTURED PLANET FOR GARMS' ARRIVAL
IT FIGURES! GARMS SENT OUT THE PRESS RELEASE BEFORE HE EVEN SPOKE TO ME!
3


FUELED BY HIS ANGER, THE GENERAL MADE SWIFT PLANS...
Y-YOU'RE GOING ALONE? BUT A MINIMUM CERT-TEAM TAKES THREE BIO-MEDS, TWO GEOLO--
SKIP IT! I TAUGHT ADVANCED-CERT AT THE ACADEMY FOR THREE YEARS! I CAN DO THIS JOB BLINDFOLDED!
ALL GARMS WANTS IS SOME "HEROIC" PICTURES WITH A COLORFUL BACKGROUND!
SO I'LL SET DOWN NEAR THIS "COLORFUL" DEAD VOLCANO AND CERTIFY THE IMME-DIATE AREA!
LATER, A FULL CERT-TEAM CAN FINISH UP!
THE GENERAL DISENGAGED FROM THE MOTHER SHIP AT 0900 AND WAS READY FOR TOUCH-DOWN BY 1128...
I'LL CERTIFY A PATH 10 FEET WIDE FROM HERE TO THE VOLCANO'S MOUTH!
THAT SHOULD BE WIDE ENOUGH FOR EVEN GARMS' UGLY EXCUSE FOR A BODY.
HAVE TO CONFIRM OUR LONG-DISTANCE ANALYSIS OF THE ATMOSPHERE BEFORE I TRY BREATHING IT!
THE AIR PASSED MINIMUM-VIABILITY STANDARDS AND THE OTHER TESTS BEGAN...
LOW MOISTURE CONTENT--HIGH DENSITY--STRONG ALKALI RATIO--EATING WOULDN'T KILL YOU--BUT IT WOULD MAKE YOU AWFUL SICK!
4

FURTHER TESTS AND SAMPLE GATHERING PROVED EQUALLY UNEVENTFUL, UNTIL...
WHAT'S THAT WEIRD STUFF? LOOKS A BIT LIKE TAR -- BUT IT HAS NO ODOR!
SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH, BUT I'D BETTER CHECK IT OUT!
IT TOOK A LASER-SCALPEL TO CUT A SAMPLE OF THE GUMMY SUBSTANCE...
THE BIO-ANALYZER SAYS THIS THING CONTAINS AMINO-ACIDS! THAT MEANS FUTURE LIFE POTENTIAL!
THE LAB BOYS WILL BE CRAZY ABOUT THIS SAMPLE!
HE BOTTLED THE SAMPLE AND BEGAN HIS TRIP AGAIN...
BLUP BLUP
MATT-THE-RAT TO MOTHER SHIP! THIS PLACE LOOKS SAFE AS A NURSERY!
I'M HEADING FOR THE VOLCANO! SO TELL GARMS TO GET READY! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
BUT LATER, AFTER INSPECTING SOME UNUSUAL MINERAL DEPOSITS...
BLUP BLUP
GOOD GOD! WHERE DID THAT THING COME FROM?
5

WITH AN UNHOLY SCREAM, THE CREATURE LURCHED FORWARD -- AND MATT HARRIMAN REACTED IN THE ONLY WAY POSSIBLE...
EEEEEEEE
CRZZZZ
BUT EVEN THE EYES OF THAT SEASONED SOLDIER WIDENED AT WHAT FOLLOWED...
WELL I'LL BE A--! IT'S THAT SAME STUFF THAT I SAW LYING AROUND BEFORE!
THEN THAT "TAR" POOL I SAW WAS A DEAD CREATURE!
HARRIMAN TO MOTHER SHIP: JUST REMOVED THE ONLY DANGER IN THE CERTIFIED AREA! TELL GARMS TO COME AHEAD!
I'LL MEET HIM ATOP THE VOLCANO!
BLUP BLUP BLUP
BUT LATER...
ANOTHER OF THOSE COMING FOR ME! AND--
-- THE ONE I KILLED, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT FROM HERE! BUT IT'S-- GONE!
THEN THIS IS THE SAME ONE! THEY'RE ALL THE SAME ONE--
IT JUST KEEPS REFORMING ITSELF! YOU CAN'T KILL IT!
6

DESPITE EVERYTHING, MATT HARRIMAN'S LAST THOUGHT WAS TO RADIO A WARNING --TELL GARMS TO TURN BACK!
BUT IT WAS ALREADY FAR TOO LATE!
ARGGGGGUGG!
JADRIAN, MINION OF EVIL EMPEROR GARTH CONQUERS!
THUS, SOME HOURS LATER...
THAT'S IT, MR. PRESIDENT. NOW WAVE AND LOOK NOBLE!
WHAT'S THAT STRANGE-LOOKING STUFF, MILLIKIN?
I DON'T KNOW, SIR-- BUT I'LL GATHER UP A SAMPLE FOR OUR OUR LAB BOYS!
AND WHEN THE AIDE HAD PLACED THE SUBSTANCE IN A SAMPLE BOTTLE...
NOW LET'S GET UP TO THE VOLCANO! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON MATT'S FACE WHEN WE ARRIVE!
I WANT A PICTURE OF THE GENERAL AND MYSELF EMBRACING! YOU KNOW, "TWO MEN OF VISION SHARING THEIR DESTINY."
OF COURSE, MR. PRESIDENT! WHAT COULD BE MORE APPROPRIATE?
BLUP BLUP
THE END

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